

REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend Claims 4, 9, 15 and 46, and cancel Claim 48 without prejudice. In view of the following discussion, all of pending claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 14-18, 34-47 and 49 are believed in condition for allowance.

It is noted with appreciation that all claims but Claims 46-49 are allowed herein. Upon a further view of the allowed claims, minor amendments to Claims 4, 9 and 15 are requested to eliminate minor informalities from these claims. Entry of these amendments is requested.

As for rejected Claim 46, this claim is amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 48 such that independent Claim 46 and dependent Claims 47 and 49 are now believed in condition for allowance. Claim 48 is hereby cancelled. As such, all of the pending claims are believed in condition for allowance.

Additionally, an IDS is filed concurrently herewith to cite additional references for the Examiner's consideration. An RCE is filed to permit consideration of this IDS.

Further and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark L. Maki

MLM/mag

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL
& TANIS, P.C.
2026 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631
Phone: (269) 381-1156
Fax: (269) 381-5465

Dale H. Thiel
David G. Boutell
Ronald J. Tanis
Terryence F. Chapman
Mark L. Maki
Liane L. Churney
Brian R. Tumm
Steven R. Thiel
Donald J. Wallace
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.

Reg. No. 24 323
Reg. No. 25 072
Reg. No. 22 724
Reg. No. 32 549
Reg. No. 36 589
Reg. No. 40 694
Reg. No. 36 328
Reg. No. 53 685
Reg. No. 43 977
Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: None

136.05/04